

the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5225, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

RENAMING NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3201) to rename the National Museum of American Art.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 3201

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RENAMING OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Museum of American Art, as designated under section 1 of Public Law 96-441 (20 U.S.C. 71 note), shall be known as the “Smithsonian American Art Museum”.

(b) REFERENCES IN LAW.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, or paper to the National Museum of American Art shall be considered to be a reference to the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 1 shall take effect on the day after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I do want to thank my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), for his willingness to assist us in moving these pieces of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Senate bill 3201 has its House counterpart authored by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA). This is an interesting bill. It is “what is in a name.” We currently have the National Museum of American Art, and we are going to rename that National Museum of American Art not for the first time.

In 1906, this Museum of American Art was called the National Gallery of Art. But in 1937, they built a building, which most of us now know is separate, and that name was given to that separate building, the National Gallery of Art.

The National Museum of American Art is confused with a number of other

museums because of the national museum connotation. So this piece of legislation will once again rename this museum so that it will never be mistaken again. The new name is the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, to state that we have no objection to this legislation and I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the author of this piece of legislation on the House side.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, myself, along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI), serve as members of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. We have, together, sponsored the legislation that is the House bill, and, of course, it parallels the Senate bill which we are working on today. This legislation is introduced as a result of the approval of the name change for the museum at the September meeting of the Board of Regents.

The regents believe this name change makes a clarification in the minds of many Americans who visit Washington, who are enthusiasts of American art, that the museum is part of the Smithsonian Institution. With this name clarification and the true connection in people's minds with the Smithsonian, the regents believe that more visitors will want to explore the treasures of the museum. We further hope that both attendance and private support for the museum will increase with this change.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members to adopt the Senate bill.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5214, offered by my good friend and colleague on the Smithsonian Board of Regents, Mr. REGULA.

H.R. 5214 simply redesignates the current National Museum of American Art as the Smithsonian American Art Museum. This name change has been unanimously approved by the Smithsonian Board of Regents, but requires legislative approval to become official.

The renaming directed in this legislation has become necessary to alleviate confusion that has arisen between the current National Museum of American Art, which is a Smithsonian museum, and the many other museums titled “National Museum” most of which are not Smithsonian museums.

This will be the third name change for this museum, which was first established in 1908 as the “National Gallery of Art.” When Congress founded the current National Art Gallery, in 1937, the Smithsonian changed its gallery's

name to “National Collection of Fine Arts.” Most recently, in 1980, Congress renamed it to its current title to more accurately reflect its collections.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, while non-controversial, is an important formality for the Smithsonian Institution. The name “Smithsonian” is instantly recognized worldwide, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum will be the beneficiary of that international reputation.

I want to thank Mr. THOMAS, the chairman of the House Administration Committee, and Mr. HOYER, its ranking Member for their support in moving this legislation, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the motion.

This bill renames the wonderful National Museum of American Art as the “Smithsonian American Art Museum”. This museum is dedicated to the arts and artists of the United States, and its collections enable the public to enjoy America's visual arts both at the museum and on-line.

The museum, part of the Smithsonian Institution, shares the historic Patent Building with the National Portrait Gallery.

Known first as the National Gallery of Art, and later as the National Collection of Fine Arts, Congress in 1980 gave the museum its present name, at the Smithsonian's request, to reflect its mission and to conform to the style of the other Smithsonian “national” museums.

However, since 1980, dozens of other museums have assumed the designation “national” in their names, thus weakening the Smithsonian's distinction as America's primary museum of works by American artists. Visitors to Washington are doubly confused by the presence on the Mall of the current National Gallery of Art, which is not part of the Smithsonian Institution.

This change will clarify the museum's mission and status, and it is hoped, increase visitation numbers as museumgoers better understand and discover the contents and location of this important part of the Smithsonian. This non-controversial legislation has the support of the Smithsonian's Secretary and Board of Regents, and passed the Senate without dissent. I urge its passage by this House.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 3201.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 3201, the Senate bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?